SECTION OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
MANAGING DIRECTOR’S OFFICE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING CHARLOTTE SCHOOL OF LAW (“CSL”) AND THE
TITLE IV STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
(Posted December 22, 2016, Updated January 10, 2017)

On December, 19, 2016, the Department of Education issued a letter to CSL terminating its participation in federal student aid programs as of December 31, 2016. The FAQs below are intended to respond to various questions that have arisen since the issuance of the letter. These FAQs will be updated as further developments warrant.

The Managing Director’s Office of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar issued a statement that can be found HERE.

What action has the Department of Education taken against CSL?

The Department of Education announced on December 19, 2016 that it has denied CSL’s application for recertification to continue participation in the federal student aid programs. Effective December 31, 2016, CSL’s participation in the federal student aid program will end. CSL has until January 3, 2017 to provide the Department with factual evidence to dispute the Department’s findings. The letter issued to CSL can be found HERE.

What action has the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar taken against CSL?

At its October 2016 meeting, the Council placed Charlotte School of Law on probation, and directed CSL to take specific remedial action. See Notice of Probation and Specific Remedial Action. This notice spells out the process that CSL should take to remove itself from probation status. Probation is a public status indicating that a law school is not being operated in compliance with the Standards and is at risk of having its approval withdrawn.

While that process is ongoing and unless and until the Council acts to formally withdraw accreditation, CSL remains an ABA accredited law school.

Can the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar answer questions regarding the action taken by the Department of Education?

The action taken by the Department of Education is a separate action from the accreditation process. The ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has no authority or jurisdiction over the action taken by the Department. The Managing Director’s office cannot answer any questions regarding the actions taken by the Department. Questions should be directed to the
Department of Education. Additional information for CSL students will be posted by the Department at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/csl.

The Managing Director’s office can only address questions regarding the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools.

**Can the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar provide assistance to students with obtaining student loans?**

Neither the Council nor the Managing Director’s Office can provide assistance with student loans. Students should work directly with the law school. Questions should be directed to the Department of Education. Additional information for CSL students will be posted by the Department at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/csl.

**Can the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar provide advice or assistance to students regarding transferring to another law school and transfer of credit?**

Neither the Council nor the Managing Director’s Office assist students who desire to transfer to other law schools. That is a matter between the student, the law school, and the law school to which the student would like to transfer. ABA Standard 505 states that there is no limit on the number of transfer credits that one ABA-approved law school can accept from another ABA-approved law school for courses taken undertaken as a J.D. student. There are, however, two important constraints that can impact the amount of credit that a student might be allowed to transfer. First, most schools have a rule of their own limiting the amount of transfer credit that can be allowed. That rule can be modified or waived by a school in accordance with its established academic policies. Second, the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) has a membership rule that transfer credit is limited to the equivalent of two semesters for full-time students or 2.6 semesters for part-time students for work successfully completed at a law school that is not an AALS member. CSL is a not an AALS member law school. Students should work directly with the transferee law school regarding the amount of credit that can be transferred. (Updated January 10, 2017)

**Can the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar provide assistance to students with obtaining copies of transcripts?**

Neither the Council nor the Managing Director’s Office can provide assistance with obtaining a copy of a transcript. Students should work directly with the Registrar at the law school to obtain transcripts.

**Will the Section of the Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar make public the documents and reports related to this matter?**

No. In accordance with the ABA Rules of Procedure 49-53, no documents, reports, or statements, other than those already made public, will be released by the Section.